has introduced various measures including those contained in the Comprehensive Policy Package announced by the Government on 30th August, 2000 for enhancing the flow of credit to the small scale sector. These consist of enhancement of working capital limit computed on the basis of minimum of 20% of annual projected turnover from Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 5 crores raising the limit of loans without collaterals from Rs. 1 lakhs to Rs 5 lakhs, enhancement in composite loans limit from Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs, raising of project cost limit under National Equity Fund Scheme from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs, launching of Credit Guarantee Scheme providing for bank loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs without collateral, setting up of specialised SSI bank branches etc.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several measures to strengthen the small scale sector and to encourage its exports, assistance on acquiring ISO-9000 certificate, quality awards, export related Entrepreneurship Development Programmes and consultancy services on this subject. The measures include subsidising participation in the International exhibitions/fairs, consultancy services on this subject. As part of the Comprehensive Policy Package, a Market Development Assistance Scheme has been announced. Other measures aimed at making SSI sector competitive both domestically and globally include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, enhancing SSI investment ceiling for certain hi-tech export oriented industries, infrastructure development through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applicaitons.

Impact of removal of restrictions on import on SSIs

4548. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to remove restrictions on import of hundred of items would spell disaster for the Small Scale Industries in the country;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any plan has been formulated to protect the SSIs in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Government is constantly monitoring the impact of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) and WTO Agreements on the economy including the small scale industries (SSIs) in the country. While the removal of QRs have exposed the SSIs to greater competitions, there has not been any surge in imports as a consequence of this step. Even after the removal of QRs, protection to the industries is available in the form of raising custom duties upto the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports, etc.

(d) to (e) The Government has put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradational infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will

enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Effect of WTO restriction on SSI

4549. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Small Scale Industries have been closed due to pressure and restriction imposed by MNCs and WTO;

(b) if so, the detials thereof; and

(c) what concrete measures have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government for safeguarding domestic industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDSUTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) There are reprots from a number of institutions including SSI Associations that due to globalisation and imposition of W.T.O. conditions, the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) have been exposed to greater competition. The information on number of units affected by the development, however, is not available. The Government is constantly monitoring the impact of globalisation and W.T.O. arrangements on the economy including SSIs.

(c) The Government has put in several measures to safeguard the interest of domestic industry and to make them competitive both domesticaly and globally. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, enhanced fiscal support. timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management facilities, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation. Protection to the industries is available in the form of raising customs duties up to the bound levels, imposing anti-dumping duties and countervailing duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports etc. An